

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Vicki L. Reynolds 714-5560-7455 vicki.reynolds@sba.gov

SBA LENDING TO SMALL BUSINESSES INCREASES IN ORANGE, RIVERSIDE AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTIES

Santa Ana, Calif. – The Santa Ana District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) increased its lending to the small business communities of Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties during Fiscal Year 2006, the period from October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006.

A total of 2,990 loans with a dollar value of \$936 million were made in Fiscal Year 2006, an increase of 10 percent over last year in total number of loans. In Orange County a total of 1551 loans were made for \$437 million, an increase of four percent in the number of loans. In Riverside County 735 loans were made for \$226 million, an increase of 17 percent in the number of loans. In San Bernardino County 704 loans were made for \$276 million, an increase of 17 percent in the number of loans.

The SBA's Santa Ana District was the leading District in the nation for the number of Section 504 loans with 591 for \$395 million. For all loan programs, the District was 2nd in the nation in total dollars loaned and 10th in the nation for total number of loans.

In other SBA program areas over 30,000 entrepreneurs received business counseling and technical assistance through SBA's resource partners SCORE "Counselors to America's Small Business", the Inland Empire Women's Business Center and the Small Business Development Center program. Firms in SBA's 8(a) Business Development Program in the Santa Ana District portfolio received \$59 million in government contracts with 121 contracts and modifications issued. There are 220 firms in the District's 8(a) program which provides management and technical assistance, networking and federal contracting opportunities to socially and economically disadvantaged businesses.